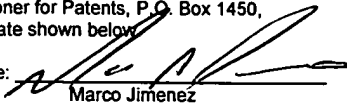


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV415770258US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 11, 2003 Signature: 

Marco Jimenez

Docket No.: 393032034420
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Satoshi INOUE

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently herewith

For: KEYBOARD MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
HAVING KEYS REGULATED WITH
STABLE KEY BALANCE PIECES AND
PROCESS FOR FABRICATING KEYS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2873

Parent Serial No.: 10/289,898

Parent Filing Date: November 7, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is a preliminary amendment to accompany the above-identified continuation-in-part application. The entire disclosure of the prior application, U.S. Application Serial No. 10/289,898 filed on November 7, 2002, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation-in-part application and is hereby entirely incorporated by reference.

The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-342943 filed November 8, 2001, Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-363799 filed November 11, 2001, and 2002-072627 filed March 15, 2002. All papers and documents required to make the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) were filed in the parent case on November 7, 2002.

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read as follows:

KEYBOARD MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HAVING KEYS REGULATED WITH STABLE KEY
BALANCE PIECES AND PROCESS FOR FABRICATING KEYS

AMENDMENT TO THE DESCRIPTION:

On Page 1, after the title and before the first paragraph, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/289,898 filed on November 7, 2002, which application is specifically incorporated herein, in its entirety, by reference.